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The Stentor

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Inside: A spooky interview
with former Ghost Hunter
Dustin Pari
see Features page 5

A chilling review of
Paranormal Activity 2
see Features page 7

Also: Women's Tennis
celebrates a successful
season
see Sports page 12

News

Lambda Chi Alpha: a smashing fundraiser and nonstop growth



Photo courtesy of Zakea Boeger

Students are amused by the carnage of Pumpkin Smash.

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The weekend before Halloween was filled with great opportunities to be in the spirit of pumpkins, fundraising, and even pumpkin pie. Lake Forest

College's third annual Pumpkin Smash event, hosted by Lambda Chi Alpha on October 23, 2010, has become a unremovable "staple," according to Lambda Chi's President, Ayal Sharvit, to the many social events on campus.

The event has grown in people, proceeds, and quirky games played to win this so called pumpkin

Olympics. Teams in the event compete to win in pumpkin bowling, seed-spitting contests, pumpkin-pie eating, and tug-a-war. The day eventually ended in the placement of first for the Girls Swim Team.

Students, like Barbie Chapman from the class of 2012.5, describe the event as being fun and exciting. After

"making three holes in a pumpkin" for pumpkin bowling, she is hooked and will continue rolling pumpkins and her involvement in the event for her future years at LFC. Chapman's experiences show that students are in love

with competition, especially, when it is all for a good cause!

Through the efforts of Lambda Chi Alpha, the past three years of pre-Halloween celebration have risen about a thousand dollars from these pumpkin smashing events. A hundred percent of these proceeds are donated to the North American Food Drive, which is a national outreach

for the Lambda Chi Alpha chapters to raise food for local communities.

Events like Pumpkin Smash are only a few pieces that make up the whole of Lambda Chi's success. Through their hard work in community service and recruitment, the fraternity received their charter recently, on September 25, 2010, making them an official Lambda Chi Alpha chapter, recognized across the nation.

One of the founding fathers of the LFC chapter and current president, Sharvit, has enjoyed seeing the growth of the fraternity into a recognized institution, not only recognized nationally for their values and judgments, but also on campus through their involvement in LFC student organizations. After only "two years and two



Photo courtesy of Zakea Boeger

Delta Chi compete in the Tug of War competition.

days", as Sharvit describes, Lambda Chi Alpha has a one year goal to receive their Inner Circle Honor on September 25, 2011.

This group of men, using their core values of loyalty, honor, and integrity, will expand their recognition nationally through the fulfillment of more requirements to achieve the new next levels of knowledge and understanding. The growth

among the fraternity is only the beginning and there is more to come among these brothers who are dedicated to their leadership and participation roles on campus. Best of luck Lambda Chi Alpha.



Photo courtesy of Zakea Boeger

Event participants prepare for the Pumpkin Pie Eating Contest.

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News

Panel debates the origins of hate

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The “Why They Hate Us” Panel, held on Tuesday in Meyer Auditorium, brought up many issues concerning the issue of tension between Americans and Muslims around the world.

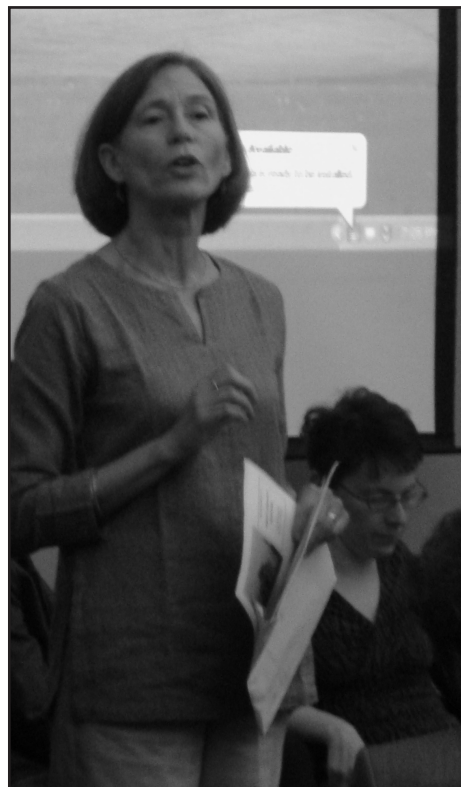
Professor Jones gave a brief outline of the history of the spread of Islam, ending in 732 C.E. as well as the Crusades. She explained that the Crusades overall had a negative impact on both Islamic culture in the Biblical area of the Middle East and the Europeans since the majority of the Crusades were not considered victories. She emphasized how Islam had incredible momentum as it spread from Arabia throughout Northern Africa into Spain as well as eastward toward India. Jones emphasized that there was at one point a harmony of “People of the Book” throughout the ruling Muslim empires, implying that Jews, Christians, and Muslims, adherents of the Abrahamic religions, at one time lived in peace.

Professor Heitner spoke on the condition of the media in today’s society and the recent resignations of certain journalists for speaking out on topics related to Islam. She pointed out Helen Thomas, a respected journalist who promptly resigned after making offensive comments about the existence of Israel; Juan Williams, who was recently let go from NPR after making comments about Muslims on “The O’Reilly Factor”; and Octavia Nasr who was let go from CNN for her Twitter post about Hezbollah. Heitner emphasized the impact of these opinion-expressing journalists on the public and the transition that

is being made in journalism between commentary and hard fact news. A reason cited for this transition may be the need for more news as the 24-hour news cycle has become standard.

Finally, Professor Marquardt discussed the foreign policy of the United States and how this may impact impressions of Muslims in America, as well as impressions of Americans abroad. He discussed “the myth of American innocence”, or the idea that America seeks to export democracy abroad and protect national security. This idea has led to the thought that if Muslims hate Americans, they must hate us for who we are and for all the cultural and constitutional elements that make up this country such as freedom and liberty. Marquardt went on to assert that this is not in fact true, that most of the grievances in Muslim countries, specifically countries in the Middle East, stem from the execution of U.S. policies abroad, not from hatred or rejection of American culture.

The forum opened up topics of discussion that are not often discussed in America, especially by the media. This question is one of great complexity involving political, social, individual, and religious issues, amongst others. Having forums like this one on campus, while they do not necessarily answer the question (as it is not possible to answer), provide a way to diffuse misconceptions that students may have about Muslims and Americans that may lead to further understanding in the future.



Photos courtesy of Annie Cooper
Professors Benton and Jones present at the “Why They Hate Us” panel.



Photo courtesy of Annie Cooper.
Students gather in Meyer, anxiously awaiting the start of the panel.

Upcoming Events

10/28-Lecture from author Achy Obejas, 4 pm, McCormick Auditorium
10/28-The Sounds of Freedom: A Tour of the World’s Banned Music, 8 pm, Lily Reid Holt Chapel
10/28-Pumpkin Pie Making, 8:30 pm, Nollen Lounge
10/29- Zumba! 4:30-5:25 pm, LFC Sports & Recreation Center Dance Studio
10/29-Choral Cabaret Concert, 7:30 pm, Calvin Durand Hall
10/30-Football vs. Knox College, 1 pm, Farwell Field
10/30- Women’s Soccer vs. Illinois College, 1 pm, Farwell Field
10/30-Swimming & Diving vs. Monmouth College, 1 pm, LFC Sports & Recreation Center
10/30-Men’s Soccer vs. Illinois College, 2:30 pm, Farwell Field
10/30-Choral Cabaret Concert, 7:30 pm, Calvin Durand Hall
10/30-Halloween ACP, 11 pm, Mohr Student Center
10/31- Women’s Soccer vs. Monmouth College, 12 pm, Farwell Field
10/31-Men’s Soccer vs. Monmouth College, 2:30 pm, Farwell Field
11/2- Yoga, 6-7:15 pm, Buchanan Hall
11/2- Delta Gamma Dodgeball, 8 pm, Basketball Court in LFC Sports & Recreation Center
11/3-Mindfulness Meditation, 12:15-12:50 pm, Skybox
11/4-Kenneth L. Weik Undergraduate Research Symposium, 4:30-6:30 pm, Mohr Student Center
11/5- Zumba!, 4:30-5:25 pm, LFC Sports & Recreation Center Dance Studio
11/5- e.Team Movie: Inception, 8 pm, McCormick Auditorium
NOTE-Only home games are listed.

News

General Education Requirements could see changes in the future

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Many students today, are in a rush to get done with undergraduate school, and go onto law school, medical school, graduate school or into the work force. Many of us tend to get annoyed with having to take classes that have nothing to do with our career chosen career path. We sometimes get irritated with subjects we might not understand and find ourselves asking, "When am I going to use this? What is the point of me learning this?" These classes that are required for us to take, regardless of the path we want to take when we are done with school are called General Education Requirements and are required by most colleges and universities. Lake Forest College, being a Liberal Arts

school, wants students to have knowledge of things other than their chosen courses of study.

According to Professor of Psychology, Nancy Brekke, the General Education Requirements of LFC "reflect the shared vision of the institution and what it means to be educated." The General Education Requirements are now being looked at by the Curricular Policies Committee, better known as the CPC, for revision due to the fact the requirements were last edited fifteen years ago. Schools that implemented the same policies have revised theirs within the past seven years and Lake Forest, as well as many other schools are being urged to edit these requirements. Right now the general education requirements are as follows...

-2 credits in Math and/or Science (Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and

Computer Science (Math 105 does not satisfy the requirement), Physics)

-2 credits in Humanities (Art, Communication, English, Modern Languages and Literatures, History, Music, Philosophy, Religion, Theater)

-2 credits in Social Sciences (Economics and Business, Education, Politics, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology)

-First Year Studies

-Senior Studies

-2 credits in Cultural Diversity (At least two courses from an approved list, must be taken by the end of your junior year and must come from different departments. Only one course may be counted in Modern Languages and Literatures, and First-

Year Studies courses do not fulfill this requirement.)

The Cultural Diversity requirement, according to Professor Brekke, as well as Dean of Faculty and Professor Janet McCracken, needs work. As the requirements stand right now, an international student would not get a cultural diversity credit for taking American Politics, but they would get a credit for taking a level 300 course of their native language.

"It just seemed silly to have them take a course in their native language or culture," said Dean McCracken. Since the international student population makes up 15% of the student body, it is definitely time for a change and to make these requirements more appropriate for the students.

Last year the CPC presented a very large package to the faculty to do some pretty drastic changes to the GECs of the college. The package,

though, was voted down due to certain parts being un-popular and the package was an all or nothing deal. However, this year the CPC is re-working the package with the faculties feed back in mind.

One of the more interesting parts of the package proposed last year was to not have the lists set in stone for what course fulfills which General Education Requirement. Dean McCracken said the problem with this could be that the students would be able to argue a certain class should fulfill a requirement. An example would be that a student taking a level 300 Social Science class could argue that it should fulfill their math requirements due to all of the statistics.

Another idea that was popular among the faculty was separating out the math and science requirements, to one class in quantitative reasoning (math) and one in

natural science. Something else that was discussed was to separate the Fine Arts from the Humanities and require that every student have one credit in the Fine Arts, (Art, Music and Theater). The problem that the faculty found with this was that these departments did not offer enough courses for the growing student body to all take a course in Fine Arts, so this idea, as well as some others, is on hold.

This year, the CPC has not made final decisions about what will be in the newly proposed package, due to the fact they are busy with issues such as online registration for classes. However, the year is still young and they will be working together to work on these issues throughout this year.

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Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

Features

Dustin Pari: The Self-Proclaimed “Paranormal Rockstar” on real spirits

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While every person has some fear of the unfamiliar, these days those fears tend to revolve around the unseen and supernatural. Enter Dustin Pari, the “Ghost Hunter” with a website called www.paranormalrockstar.com. Such a website and job title provokes images of someone hunting demons and ghosts all over the world, but Dustin Pari and his work are more complex than that.

Upon my arrival at the Lily Reid Holt Memorial Chapel this past Saturday to interview Dustin, this writer expected to encounter a TV star hardened from frequent battle with the supernatural who would entertain and frighten students while trying to find a ghost in the Chapel. What I expected I did not find.

When I entered the Chapel with Dean Chris Waugh, I found Dustin setting up...for a presentation! No ghost hunting tools, no dim lights; what I saw were long rows of chairs, a projector, and refreshments waiting in another room. It turns out that the ghost hunting expedition I was expecting to witness was actually going to be a presentation meant to inform the ignorant about the different types of entities a Ghost Hunter would encounter in his work.

Earlier in the day, Dustin had investigated the Sheridan Road Ghost with members of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society. This ghost was supposed to be the spirit of a woman named Mary, who was found dead in the woods in February 1916 when she was supposed to be meeting her boyfriend at the train station. Dustin used a Spiritcom, similar to what was used in the film *White Noise*, to conduct his investigation,

but did not interact with her. This is common, since he says that he tells people to expect nothing to happen in these investigations “90% of the time”.

Before my interview with Dustin, I had a chance to witness his exchange with some students. From that exchange, I gleaned this information about and from Dustin:

On how he describes himself: “I hate the term ‘ghost’ and the term ‘ghost hunter’.”

On his personal beliefs: “I am a Christian.”

On the spirit world: “The Gnostic Gospels tell us Heaven is a concrete place, but not where it is or how close it is. What people call ghosts can be related to that.”

On being a Christian ghost hunter: “I get a lot of hate mail from Christians, but I think people who do this without the [spiritual component] are missing out.”

On communicating with the dead: “I talk to the living and that’s about it. I don’t think anyone needs help crossing over.”

Although Dustin was featured in the Syfy television shows “Ghost Hunters” and “Ghost Hunters International,” he has left both shows and is not a member of TAPS (The Atlantic Paranormal Society). While he describes himself as “cool with everybody,” he is honest about the need to pursue new paths in life. He quit “Ghost Hunters” to get married, then signed on for the international spin-off and quit that to spend more time with his family and start a ministry. While he has received offers from production companies to do other shows Dustin says, “It has to be the right vehicle. It has to address a spiritual aspect.” When asked to articulate his biggest problem with the shows, Dustin also

comments on the scheduling, saying, “We were on the road 6 weeks at a time”. During his presentation, Dustin actually joked that he told Barry Fitzgerald, a member of the “Ghost Hunters” cast and TAPS, that “[he] had seen more sunrises and sunsets with [Barry] than with [his] wife”. But for those who think that Dustin is swimming in money from television, think again: Dustin has been working as an Anesthesia Technician for Oral and Facial Cosmetic Surgery on his time off for the past ten years.

After the crowd has finished their refreshments (which included a spread of chips and salsa, hot wings, and bowls of punch with latex gloves swimming in them), we all gathered in

learned about the four types of entities that a paranormal investigator could encounter:

Poltergeists, a form of haunting, are characterized by knocks and bangs, object manipulation and movement, and physical interaction. According to the Agent Theory, they are caused by psychokinesis set off by a person’s stress. These people are likely to be menopausal women and pubescent boys and girls. Residual Hauntings are the most commonly reported. They are defined as apparitions playing through time without consciousness or awareness of our presence. Ways that residual hauntings can imprint themselves are by repetitious activity that a person carried out in life and those activities occurring at predictable time intervals.



the Chapel to hear Dustin give his presentation “A Paranormal Overview.” We learned about who Dustin is (father, minister, paranormal investigator), who he isn’t (“The person with all the answers in relation to the paranormal field”); and why he does what he does (“Genuine curiosity,” “Adrenaline Junky,” and “To prove the existence of an afterlife, in some form or another, to those who do not believe”).

Moving into the meat of the presentation, which Dustin explicitly said was meant to inform us, we

with these entities have been characterized as “spiritual rape.” They have a phantom scent which for demonic entities can be foul or sulfalike. Manifestations of their presence can be spontaneous fires, clouds of smoke, and extreme temperature changes. With demonic entities you could hear audible growls, groans, screams, and bangs. If you’re on the lookout for these entities, look for gradual changes in the personality of someone being influenced and look out for animal/pet responses to those being influenced.

Dustin also discussed the advances in technology that have helped paranormal investigators in their work. These include: EMF/K2/Trifield Meters which measure electromagnetic forces, Digital Voice Recorders, handheld video cameras, DVR systems, still photography, word generators, and full-spectrum photography.

There were only two pictures shown in the entire presentation, but one of them, a photo of the spirit of Agnes Elizabeth, brought the audience to attention. The spirit of young Agnes Elizabeth was found in a mortuary in New Orleans during the day. Dustin characterized this investigation as an example of how “spirits are always active, despite the idea that this takes place only at night.”

During the question and answer session, students, Lake Forest residents, and Dustin Pari fans/supporters asked questions about:

His impactful experiences: Seeing his first shadow figure when he was eight years old and living in Providence, Rhode Island. Going to a Latvian prison where a woman tried to free her fiancé during a war. The woman had traded sexual favors for information on where her fiancé was being

held, but when she got to his cell she found out that he was dead. Ashamed, she hanged herself in that very cell. When Dustin and the “Ghost Hunters International” crew visited Cell 8, they found that it was not the cell the woman had hanged herself in. When they found the original Cell 8, Dustin experienced the woman speak in Latvian for eight seconds. He described it as “very touching.”

The longest time spent on a case: “Two days on the show. Sundown to sunup.”

Where he would want to investigate: “The caves and isles of Greece. The history alone is interesting.”

Physical interaction with ghosts: While on “Ghost Hunters,” took a trip to Ireland. Provoked a ghost in a chapel and was knocked down. On the show, it seems as if Dustin went to back of the Chapel and fell off to the side because the cameraman was filming something else when it happened. “Nothing else happened after that, but that made me think about what I’m doing. I welcome physical interaction, but I say I don’t encourage [the spirits] to perform.”

Although Dustin has been traveling to colleges in the days leading up to Halloween, his departure from the show has marked a transition to an online (for now) ministry called “The Patch Ministry.” Dustin says, “People send me e-mails, personal problems. I don’t claim to be a biblical scholar.” When I ask Dustin whether he’s leaving investigating behind, he responds, “The paranormal is intriguing to me, will always be a part of me.” And for the record, Dustin is adamant that he has never attempted to investigate spirits in his home.

Intelligent Spirits were once alive, can interact with you, and can echo the personality it had when it was living. They require that you speak their language, although according to the International Consciousness Theory spirits can respond to you in your language; and that you speak to their time and place (which means no talking to a spirit about Beyonce!).

Inhuman Entities were never people like we are. They can be demonic, angelic, elemental, incubus, succubus, or jinn (which are from the Middle East). Interactions

Features

Andrew Van Herik thinks The Social Network is the first truly great film about our generation.

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What is true? The Social Network contains facts and falsehoods about the founding of Facebook.com, and like any docudrama, it plays with history to create a story. But that story is now. That story is, in a way, all of us. Facebook has existed from 2004 to 2010 and will continue to exist. It would not exist without me, probably you, and every other member of this site—now over 500 million strong.

That number alone is staggering. Has any service in all of history served so many people? What about one based around not food, not information, not money, but you and your friends? The Social Network, then, examines the origin of a world, and, as one outside observer, played by a scene-stealing Rashida Jones, puts it, “Every creation myth needs a Devil.”

That devil appears to be one Mark Zuckerberg, the actual creator of Facebook and current corporate figurehead of the company played by Jesse Eisenberg. I say “appears to be” because this film has an Oliver

Stone-esque quality of ambiguity of character. Characters are not so much evil or good as they are tragic, and this humanity is necessary because Zuckerberg and Facebook still rule the roost. Spoiler: Facebook wins.

But does Zuckerberg win? Does his oft-maligned partner Eduardo Saverin (Andrew Garfield)? Or what about the sociopathic Sean Parker (Justin Timberlake), founder of Napster? These questions, simplified as they may be, lay at the heart of The Social Network. They appear in the legal context of who deserves credit and money, sure. But they mostly center on the humanistic quality of these men—have they too achieved happiness and fulfillment even as Facebook allows others to reach out to their human brethren, or, as the site’s mission statement puts it, “to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected?”

Like the best of films, The Social Network leaves this final mystery investigated, but unanswered. Zuckerberg and his cohorts, no matter their aspirations to godliness, are frail humans just like the rest of us.

Director David Fincher and writer Aaron Sorkin have knitted a tale that is less about Facebook and more about the faces behind it. Besides one establishing shot at a nightclub in San Francisco and a brief but chilling sequence of a crew race, the camera remains intimately aimed at a few people in mundane environs. Zuckerberg, Saverin, and

Parker are the troubled architects of Facebook, and the film uses their extended legal battle as its narrative centerpiece. The thrill is in the said and unsaid—I am witnessing, on film, people my age or a little older, battling over something my generation gave the world.

This the first film I have seen where the Internet, computers, and social networking, are not magic wands to bandage plot holes (How can they find the killer with just this blurry photograph? I know! They’ll just run it through a voodoo program that “enhances” the image!), but what they really are—tools of individual expression and empowerment.

I remember the editor-in-chief of my school newspaper in high school badgering me to get a Facebook profile, and I’ve had one for four years now. It’s just a part of my life, not overwhelming, not annoying, just there. It was a thing to be a part of in high school, and now it’s a global phenomenon, a thing to be a part of in part of Sri Lanka.

I was never self-aware of this oddly huge thing until seeing this film. Am I a part of an evil conspiracy? Am I a chump or a champ? This film is about us.

In plot, this is a film about beginnings and endings. Zuckerberg comes up with Facebook while drunk and angry at a girl that just dumped him, hacking Harvard’s house databases to create a hot or not comparison page between all the Harvard women. Then, Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss and Divya Narendra, preeminent Harvard undergrads and future successful human beings, ask him to code

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The Social Network is like a modern day version of a Greek tragedy.

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their idea for an exclusive Harvard Connection site, not too unlike Zuckerberg’s creation—thefacebook.com. The site grows, tensions of intellectual property rise, and eventually Zuckerberg connects with Parker.

Parker orchestrates a corporate investment, eliminates Saverin from the company, but is disgraced by his own demons. It is a plot that one can gather from Wikipedia, but it is film that must be seen, for the dialogue between and around these events is that of a modern Greek drama, steeped in betrayal, hubris, and greed.

Yet it is modern. Zuckerberg does not realize

his malfeasance and gouge out his eyes like Oedipus of old. Gods do not sweep in to save the day. Instead, cases are settled, lawyers ask needling questions, and office chairs in an antiseptic set are rolled and swiveled, chairs turning Saverin away in a moment of anger and Zuckerberg toward a rain-swept window in a moment of pensiveness. This is about money on the surface, but it is also about the world of the 21st century. And it is, again, about people.

Like a Greek drama, and like Oliver Stone’s Nixon and Bush, the lives of these characters give us catharsis and allow us to channel our emotions

through these men who want to become ciphers. We can all relate to their vainglorious enterprise. And we can all relate to the reality—they are young men trying to define themselves in the world; they just make billions of dollars along the way.

So, I must repeat the recommendations of hundreds of critics: See The Social Network—not because it is well acted, well directed, humorous, dramatic, or powerful, although it is all those things, but because it is, regardless of direct factual accuracy, a true story about us.

Rating: 10/10

Features

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 2 - WHEN SUPERNATURAL MEETS SUBURBIA

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Here is a list of things I was afraid of before seeing *Paranormal Activity 2*: centipedes, spiders, clowns, sharks, needles, lightning, and Freddy Krueger.

Here is a list of things I am adding to that list after seeing the movie: crib mobiles, frying pans, basement doors, wind-up toys, cabinets, and pool cleaners.

Although not quite as sensational as the original, *Paranormal Activity 2* still delivers honest-to-God scares in what will hopefully become a popular new cinematic genre: the high-tech paranormal thriller.

The movie follows a suburban California family: Daniel (Brian Boland), a skeptical and thoroughly modern middle-aged dad; Kristi (Sprague Grayden), his second wife; a teenage daughter from Daniel's first marriage; Hunter, Daniel and Kristi's infant son; a Hispanic live-in nanny; and Abby, the family's German Shepherd. And to make things even more interesting, we learn at the beginning that Kristi is actually the sister of Katie, the demon-influenced woman from the first *Paranormal Activity*, making this movie a prequel to the original. (Don't worry – it makes much more sense by the end.)

In the first ten minutes of the movie, the family comes home to find that their house has been ransacked – furniture in pieces, cabinet doors wide open, books pulled off shelves – but oddly enough, nothing has been taken. The family,

therefore, decides to install a set of security cameras in six different locations in and around the house, and slowly but surely, the audience is drawn into an increasingly terrifying array of supernatural spectacles.

And because much of the action takes place late at night after the lights go out, this is essentially where

wanting to be caught off guard either.

And here lies the ultimate question: is it better to be prepared, although we all have a pretty good idea of what's waiting in the dark, or does ignorance offer temporary bliss? I, for one, lie somewhere in the middle, as I spent most of the movie peeking through my fingers.

becomes overpowering. Was that the dog I just heard, or is something coming up the basement steps? And because the audience is in a state of constant anticipation, the subtle effects, like a door slowly being pushed open, become all the more shocking, and the loud noises make us want to scream and cower under our seats.

climb out of the pool on its own," Daniel insists that it is simply a malfunction on the part of the cleaner. After all, such modern families do not tolerate such nonsense!

But the joke is on them, as the innocuous features of suburban life begin to turn against the family, transforming cabinet doors and frying pans into terrifying objects, and the modern marvels meant to dispel their fear only increases it by showing them the things that they cannot see. Without the security cameras, no one would have known that the basement door opened by itself in the middle of the night, or that the baby's crib mobile decided to start spinning of its own accord. This actually puts the audience in a more fearful

position, as we are privy to the information that they are unaware of. The family is terrified, but we are even more so because we know about all the things they've missed. We are ahead of the game, against our better judgment.

But even the cameras aren't infallible, as there are still a significant number of noises that go unexplained. What was that tremendous bang from the foyer? No one knows – not even the audience. And when the demons start violently interacting with the members of the family, we are helpless to do anything

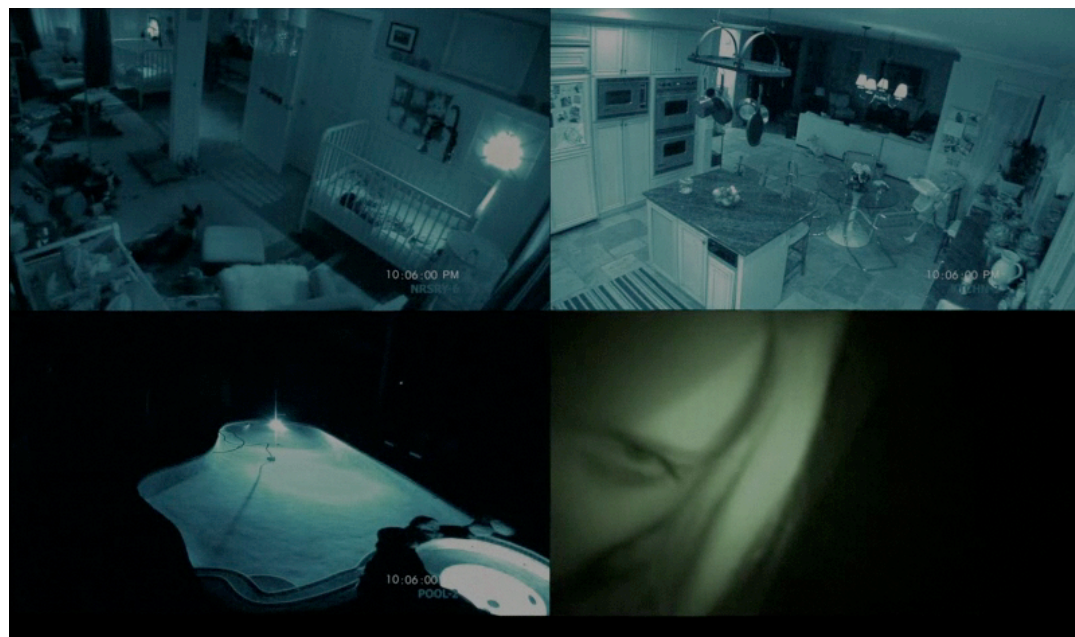
except sit back and watch as Kristi is dragged out of Hunter's nursery and down the stairs by her feet. This is the same formula featured in the original *Paranormal Activity*, but instead of being restricted to a handheld camera and a tripod in the bedroom, we see everything that happens, whether we like it or not.

The movie has a couple of downsides. The character relationships and familial ties are confusing and poorly developed – it was only until halfway through the movie that I realized that the teenage daughter was actually Kristi's stepdaughter, and that Hunter was the first biological child for Kristi and Daniel. Does this play a significant role in the plot? Not exactly, but it was a little inconvenient to spend the first half of the movie wondering how the hell everyone was related.

In addition, the movie's explanation of why things are going bump in the night (an ancestor made a deal with the Devil a hundred years ago) is a bit heavy handed for the subtlety featured in the rest of the movie.

But these are flaws that can be overlooked by the fact that this movie is effing scary. If you see *Paranormal Activity 2*, make sure to check your closet and any shadowy corners before going to sleep. Or on second thought, maybe you should just hop into bed and hide under the covers. Sometimes its best to leave those shadowy places unexplored.

Rating: 9/10



A demonic version of I Spy - where do YOU think the devil is hiding?

the true horror of the movie lies – not in special effects or dramatic pop-outs, but the disturbing quietness of a house lying in wait for something to happen. Each night shot is filmed in monochromatic night vision from an aerial perspective, giving the audience a perfect view of the shadowy nooks and crannies of the house. Each angle offers a thousand different places where the demon could be hiding, and the audience frantically scans each scene, not wanting to examine the shadowy corners, but not

I didn't want to be taken completely by surprise, but the thought of staring at the screen and waiting for the demons to attack didn't sound like such a hot idea either. To know, or not to know – that is the question, because quite frankly, both options suck.

Paranormal Activity 2, like the original, does not feature a soundtrack, and it becomes apparent as to how silence can be much more effective. As the movie cycles through the night vision shots, the stillness

This is horror for the modern generation. In today's age of iPods and laptops and surveillance cameras, the religious superstitions of earlier centuries are scorned. Daniel, the skeptical father, fires the live-in nanny because she resorts to religious methods to rid the house of "bad spirits." How dare she burn incense and bless the house with an anointed crucifix? And when his wife and daughter start asking questions such as, "How did the pool cleaner

Forester Focus

UNCOVEREDARTISTRY'S BEST INEXPENSIVE AND ECO-FRIENDLY SHOPS

by Angie Spoto, staff writer

What's not to love about resale shopping? It's inexpensive, eco-friendly, and encourages you to develop your own unique style. I've done my fair share of resale shopping, so I've compiled a list of what I've found to be the top resale shops near Lake Forest College. Don't forget that resale shops are the perfect places to shop for Halloween costumes. Instead of buying a mass-produced polyester costume from Walmart, consider exploring these stores:

*easily accessible by walking or public transportation

***The Junior League Thrift House - 920 Chicago Ave. Evanston (take the Main St. stop on the Metra and walk north down Chicago Ave.)**

This shop is the place to go for accessories. They sell silk scarves and belts at affordable prices. And what's better is their stuff is unique, so you can be sure you won't run into someone wearing the same item. They also have a fantastic arsenal of sweaters. If you're looking to rock an over-sized sweater or a boyfriend cardigan, I'd head over to the Junior League. Fantastic Finds: vintage leather and glass belt (\$3), sweater dress (\$4), silk scarves (\$6)

***ORT Resale Store - 915 Chicago Ave. Evanston (take the Main St. stop on the Metra and walk north down Chicago Ave.)**

Go to ORT and you're gonna need to dig. They literally have piles of gloves, hats, and purses. But be patient, because your digging will lead you to a multitude of unique finds. They also sell women's outerwear, tops, pants, and housewares. This shop is also extremely affordable. Fantastic Finds: aviator sunglasses (\$2), cashmere & leather gloves (\$6), Italian leather jacket (\$30)

***Factory Vintage Clothing - 1043 Chicago Ave. Evanston (take the Main St. stop on the Metra and walk north down Chicago Ave.)**

As soon as you walk through the door, you feel an authentic vintage vibe. This little shop is packed full of quirky vintage clothing, shoes, and accessories. They have a wide variety of genuine vintage hats from the 1930s-70s. They also sell fun dresses, mostly from the 1960s. Factory Vintage is the perfect place to shop for your Halloween costume. In fact, I found my 1970's disco dress here for only \$16. Fantastic Finds: disco dress (\$16), 60's hat (\$7)

Mundelein Goodwill - 7651 S Midlothian Rd. Mundelein (follow Townline Rd. until it intersects with Midlothian, store on your left)

By far this store is the cleanest, most organized Goodwill I've been to. Like most other Goodwill Stores, shopping here is an adventure. After a bit of digging around, you just might be lucky and find a Gucci purse for under \$5. What makes the Mundelein Goodwill better than most, however, is its location. Surrounded by affluent towns like Lake Forest, you're almost guaranteed you'll stumble upon a designer label. Fantastic Finds: Ralph Lauren button down (\$5), Clinique makeup bag (\$1), vintage jumper dress (\$7)

Mundelein Salvation Army - 357 Townline Rd. Mundelein - (drive down Townline Rd. past Walmart, store on your left)

Although this store is without fitting rooms, it's a great place to shop for deals. They carry an enormous selection of women and men's clothing, including purses and outerwear. You could even pick up a funky dresser for less than \$10 while you're at it. And to top it off, it's just a few minutes' drive from the Goodwill in town. Fantastic Finds: vest (\$3.50), Nieman Marcus bag (\$4)

***Encore Better Consignments in Highwood - 417 Sheridan Rd. Highwood (take the Metra to Highwood stop and walk north on Sheridan)**

If you're not a fan of the digging and searching that a trip to Goodwill is sure to bring, then Encore is more your type. They've done the hard work for you; they only sell designer labels. When you walk through the door, you'll be overwhelmed by the selection of clothing, scarves, jewelry, purses, hats, and shoes. Many of the items have a vintage feel to them, so if you love to make a statement or if you're shopping for a Halloween costume, Encore is the place to go. Fantastic Finds: designer hats, jewelry, and scarves

***Lake Forest Hospital Resale Shop - 653 N. Bank Ln. Lake Forest (walk down Deerpath to Bank Ln)**

Perhaps the greatest aspect of this store is its convenience. It's located in downtown Lake Forest just past The Green Teaist. You'll definitely want to explore the upstairs section of the store. There you'll find an array of gently-worn women's clothing. The shop also sells housewares, jewelry, and men's clothing. All the proceeds directly benefit the hospital. Fantastic Finds: classic pieces, such as button downs

Want to read about more ways to shop green? Visit my blog at uncoveredartistry.blogspot.com for fashion tips, shopping guides, and product reviews.

Ask Isaac, with Isaac Acosta*

Isaac,

Please help me out. So, I like this girl, and she is cool and all, but she doesn't trust me and she has a backup in case we don't work out. She says she likes me and all, but I'm scared she won't like me enough to build a strong relationship. She doesn't trust me, and I don't trust her. I feel like if I start letting myself fall for her, she will end up breaking my heart. I feel like the more she gets to know me the more she doesn't want to be with me. And the fact that she has a back up makes me feel like a guy that can be replaced so easily. Are we right for each other? Should I just be good friends with her or just be patient. What shall I do?

-Deeply Damaged

You're in a top predicament my friend. Someone once told me, "Don't make someone a priority when they only make you an option." What I can tell you is that if you really want this to work, you need two ingredients--and this is for anyone who wants to build any kind of relationship--*Communication* and *Trust*. Communication with each other, whether physical or verbal can help explain people's feelings, thoughts and actions towards one another. Trust for any relationship is the key to having it be a healthy one.

What bothers me so much in this situation is the fact that she has a backup will make it very hard to

even be in a relationship. For example, if you made one mistake, one thing that will make her mad or sad, she would go straight for her backup as if you never existed. I think that's playing with emotions and my friend that is wrong. If she can't learn to trust you, then she doesn't deserve you. At this point, stay friends and build that trust-bond relationship needed.

My professor seems hell-bent on confusing me this semester. I listen in class and read, but on my papers he says that I just don't understand what I'm writing about. What should I do? Yours, Frustrated Freshman

E-mail your professor for an explanation of what you should be doing and how you can improve in his/her class. Professors like it when they see their students being interested in their class, it shows initiative... I just learned that this week.

I just failed my room inspection! Now where will Fluffykins the bunny live? Sincerely, Illegal animal lover

Research the nearest animal day care centers or put out flyers asking if anyone would like to have a bunny. Make it so that they live near the campus, so you can visit them. Or possibly, it's a sign to grow apart from the bunny.

Dear Isaac, Halloween is coming up, and my friends and I were just wondering: what's your favorite urban legend? Sincerely, Curiously Gothic

I am a big fan on Halloween and urban legends. And when I say a fan, I mean I like to hear about it and see it on movies/television. My classic favorite is bloody mirror. Say "bloody mirror" three times in front of a window with a candle light on and the lights will turn off by themselves. Have the guts?

Are spirits real? Sincerely, F**k you Paranormal Activity 2

Of course. How else do you explain the constant noise in the middle of the night?

Q: Dear Isaac. How would one get ahold of you -- that is, if they don't know how to? Because, clearly, I do. Sincerely, Looking out for others

Isaac can be reached by e-mail and campus mail. Simply drop him a line at acosta@lakeforest.edu or submit your questions to The Stentor mailbox near the gates center.

Forester Focus



Health & Wellness:

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Roughly one in every 200 American women suffer from an eating disorder and many eating disorder specialists agree that they are a direct consequence of the social pressure on American females to achieve a nearly impossible thinness.

The media has conditioned females (and males) to judge the worth of their own bodies. The connections between advertising and body dissatisfaction have only increased and continue to do so and it creates a larger gap that most women are unable to fill.

Body image involves our perceptions, imagination, emotions, and physical sensations of our bodies. They are, however, continually changing, sensitive to changes in mood, environment and physical experiences. The idea of "the perfect body" is psychological in nature, not fact. It is influenced much more by self esteem rather than actual physical attractiveness. It is not inborn, but learned. This "learning" occurs in the family, among peers, and reinforced by what is learned and expected culturally. The most disturbing fact is that what society describes as "perfect beauty" is largely illusive and unrealistic.

Researchers generated a computer model of a woman with Barbie-doll proportions and found that her back would be too weak to support the weight of her upper body and her body would be too narrow to contain more than half of a liver and a few centimeters

of her bowel. A real woman built that way would suffer from chronic diarrhea and be at the highest risk for death caused by malnutrition. Jill Barad, president of Mattel (which manufactured Barbie dolls) estimates that over 90% of girls in the US own at least one Barbie doll.

Although weight and media affect men too, researchers report that women's magazines have 10 and a half times more ads and articles promoting weight loss than men's do. Society has become dependent on the latest diet pills and procedures to help them lose more weight. But today, women have many choices when it comes to being unhappy with their bodies: diet, exercise or cosmetic surgery. And why would any woman pass on such an opportunity?

Being thinner and pretty, according to society's standards, means you will be more popular, get a better job, have a more fulfilling life, and become rich and famous, right? All you have to do is starve and make yourself look exactly like every other supermodel out there and then you too will have a perfect life.

Sadly, this is the preconceived notion that many young women believe today. Because of the belief that thinness brings happiness, many have gone to extremes to make sure that is exactly what they get.

America has the highest percentage of Bulimia, Anorexia, Binge Eating or borderline conditions. Eating disorders have a higher mortality rate than any mental illness and many cases go untreated. Help your family member or a friend that you suspect

is suffering from an eating disorder. Do not ignore it and assume it is simply a phase.

Thanks are due to Harriet Brown, author of *Brave Girl Eating*, in which she gives us many ways to learn how to love our bodies: Recognize that bodies come in different shapes and sizes. There is no "right" body size and no two should be alike. Appreciate all your body can do. Respect, honor, and fuel it. Create a list of all the things your body lets you do. Socialize. Don't let your weight or shape keep you from doing anything. Get rid of the scale. Become a critical viewer of the media-most of what you are striving to become does not exist. Question unrealistic images that make you feel bad about yourself. Reach out and help someone else. Research shows that altruistic acts can help you change the way you think and feel about yourself.

Helpful Websites:

www.operationbeautiful.com
www.bodypositive.com
www.thedressingroomproject.com
www.projectbodytalk.com
www.love-your-body.org
www.cswd.org/docs/tensteps.html

Please note that this article does not include those who suffer from obesity. Many who suffer from eating disorders are not overweight and simply see themselves as "fat."

MADAME HELVETICA HATBROTH'S WEEKLY HOROSCOPES*

Aries (21 Mar-20 Apr) – Have you found your Halloween costume yet? If you have, throw it aside this instant! Madam Hatbroth has peered into the future and sees the 5th house of Neptune entering into the third moon, meaning that you will dazzle men and women alike if you choose a peacock costume to don for the weekend.

Taurus (21 Apr-21 May) – Take a deep breath, Taurus. You've finally finished all you pre and post Fall Break midterms. Let loose this weekend! I suggest dressing as a werewolf to make it extra appropriate for you to howl at the moon. Who knows, you might even attract a mate...wink, wink.

Gemini (22 May-21 Jun) – Hey there, Gemini. Because of your dual nature, I sense some pulling in opposite directions over where you should be spending Halloween weekend. I suggest making a mad dash around Lake Forest, where I predict you will be given golden candy bars and Snickers filled with diamonds, followed by making your way over to the ACP, fresh off of your sugar high. Or, you (21+ Geminis) could always just pregame the pregame, head to a party, and then stumble around campus shouting for more Kit Kats and liquor.

Cancer (22 Jun-22 Jul) – Did things work out with the potential love interest you met over break? If not, don't fret, sweet Cancer. Dress as part of a couples costume (perhaps the electrical cord looking for its plug?) and find the person with whom you are destined to spend eternity.

Leo (23 Jul-22 Aug) – Bad news bears, Leos! Your temporary dance expertise has been revoked at the start of the 3rd moon sashaying its way into your 1st house. I recommend picking up a few DVDs (Madame Hatbroth's personal favorites include Carmen Electra's Hip-Hop Workout (Disc 5) and the ever classic Darrin's Dance Grooves) to help hone your skills prior to the ACP or any other Halloween festivities.

Virgo (23 Aug-21 Sept) – Feelin' frisky this week, Virgos? Not surprised, because your sixth house has moved into the fourth dimension. I don't recommend seeing any scary movies over the next few days – don't want your friskiness parade to be rained on by blood, guts, or creepy men in masks.

Libra (22 Sept-22 Oct) – Alright, Libras. I'm not going to lie...I'm not sure what's going to happen to you this week. All I can tell is that you're in for a wild ride, and I think you're going to like it.

Scorpio (23 Oct-21 Nov) – Assuming you survived that encounter with the giant scorpion, do try and avoid any skirmishes this week. You'll want to be well-rested for the surprise you're going to receive on Monday...

Sagittarius (22 Nov-21 Dec) – The 8th star of Saturn's third ring has disappeared into the depths of the moon's shadow. Subsequently, you should avoid all ravines this weekend, lest you fall into one and be carried off by a ragtag bunch of raccoons and foxes, only to reemerge five years later and refuse to answer to anything but "Hauss."

Capricorn (22 Dec-20 Jan) – Get ready to debut some sweet moves on Friday night. The moon is moving into Capricorn's 1st house and your joints will be ready for some action. Don't stress them too much, though. You'll want to be fresh and ready for an impromptu break-dancing battle on Saturday night.

Aquarius (21 Jan-19 Feb) – Try not to forget your ol' pal water, Aquarius. Gulp some down the next time you're trying to finish a paper or cram for a test and watch your grades soar higher than Icarus....that is, before he plunged to his death.

Pisces (20 Feb-20 Mar) – Stop! Look behind you! It's –It's— Just kidding. Keep an eye out for tricksters this Halloween, Pisces. I've got a hunch that they'll be silently creeping behind you all weekend, lurking in the shadows of Middle Campus, waiting to steal your candy and beer.

* Madame Helvetica Hatbroth and Isaac Acosta wish to gently remind their readers that her horoscopes and his advisements are written merely for entertainment purposes, and no decisions should be made based upon them.

Opinions

War games: idolization is not respect

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War is not to be trifled with. The Wikileaks logs released a few months ago on Afghanistan and last week on Iraq reveal atrocities and failures that make one question whether any of it is really worth it. And that is precisely their purpose: release harsh truths to shock an apathetic public into anagnorisis.

And yet, even as videos of helicopters gunning down a Reuters writer hit the net, even as we begin to realize just how horrible it all is, we in America are still playing our little war games.

Electronic Arts released another depiction of modern war, *Medal of Honor*, on October 12th, 2010. A somewhat cynical business move in response to *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2* (Activision's modern shooter that has garnered a ridiculous almost 20 million sales at 60 bucks a pop) *Medal of Honor* sets itself in the beginning of the Afghani conflict, specifically during a modified Operation Anaconda, amidst groups of Navy Seals (specifically DEVGRU), Army Rangers, and Tier 1 special forces.

Pledging authenticity and an almost saccharine respect to our troops, the game's brief storyline does little but utilize real events like the taking of Bagram airfield and the Battle of Shah-i-Kot in typical video game scenarios.

The Tier 1 missions are mostly stealthy, with a lot of sneaking around Taliban guards or killing them with silenced weapons. Ranger missions are mostly a matter of moving along a carnival ride of turbaned enemies popping in and out of cover—only that “ding!”

of success at the fair is missing. Seals missions are heavy on vehicles and technology. Though the Afghani hills rise behind you, most of the game is spent ignoring them. It is not so much respectful as it is pedantic.

It has been said that all war movies are anti-war movies. One finds that in trying to tell a story about war, one cannot help but reveal its ultimate ambiguities: the relative moralities of different sides, the sheer act of killing another human being, civilian casualties, men in suits ordering kids to die for cynical causes, and the unreality of technological warfare.

The Hurt Locker approached these themes with poise and grace. *Medal of Honor* avoids them at all costs.

Its idea of respect seems to be linguistic. Danger Close, the game's developer, worked closely with veterans to secure a realism in dialogue and movement. “Delta Hotel” is direct hit; “LZ is cherry” means the landing zone is under heavy fire and is compromised; “Lima Charlie” is loud and clear. The weapons like the M4 are really used in the field. Operators swear and remain calm, or lose their cool the way one may expect. Yet “Delta Hotel” really just means I pointed a laser sight at a machine gun emplacement and it got blowed up real good.

At the end of the game, thousands of Taliban, al-Qaeda, and Chechen fighters are dead by your controller-holding hand. And many times one can see enemies blinking into existence before taking the place of a fallen comrade, bodies of the fallen disappearing to make sure the game doesn't have to process too much information, and your squad mates standing in a doorway robotically waiting for you

to trigger their next movement. This isn't realism; this is a puppet show.

Medal of Honor fails artistically but has already sold over a million copies. It turns war into a shooting gallery and our troops into robotic agents of death, but so has every war game ever made.

Video games have been power fantasies since their inception, from Mario besting all the residents of the Mushroom Kingdom to Master Chief filling Halo with the Covenant dead. With goombas and aliens though, it's just fantasy. With the Taliban popping up like whac-a-mole, it's disturbing.

Previous war games set in WWII and the aforementioned Modern Warfare series can feel just as strange, but killing Nazis is basically considered a social good and Activision's series is closer to Michael Crichton than reality.

Wikileaks shows us, perhaps recklessly, real carnage and tragedy. Would anyone play a game where they had to deal with those consequences not as an observer, but as a participant?

Modern Warfare 2 had a scene where, as a double agent infiltrating a Russian terrorist group, you had to walk through a Moscow airport as your compatriots murdered every civilian they saw. In *Medal of Honor*, you see perhaps five civilians at the beginning of the game while every other mission has dialogue that unambiguously identifies all these brown people as the bad guys. At one point, the requisite general in Washington orders a strike on an unidentified group and you hear the screams of dying Afghani rebels—men on your side. But, no scene follows of his war crime trial or their weeping families; you just get back to shoot-

ing the bad Afghanis

At the same time, I appreciate this game for its multiplayer, the story-less mode of being where people, inhabiting avatars on the screen, seek to defeat each other in open combat or in the achievement of goals.

It is a wondrous thing, this representation of battle, for bullets fly, blood splatters, and battles are lost and won, but one always resurrects to rejoin the fight. Without the sad mockery of current times that is the storyline of *Medal of Honor*: the multiplayer is a Hobbesian State of War, an escape into a world where we speak with the barrel of a gun.

We are animals—Our base instincts are sex and violence, even as our intellect counters with reason. I like to think that the millions playing *Modern Warfare 2* are not so much training for reality, as letting out aggression in a safe manner.

Medal of Honor is just a drop in the pan, with the *Call of Duty: Black Ops* soon to replace it and its own forerunner in a few weeks. Yet it is the first game to approach modern conflict without a filter, and for that it is remarkable, even as it falters.

If only these games could approach modern warfare not as a theatre of play, but as a landscape of discussion, being respectful as one adult is to another, rather than treating their players like, as a Danger Close representative actually said, kids playing “cops and robbers.”

Then, truly, they would aspire to the greatness they so obsequiously bestow on the troops. Make death matter. Teach me about the war itself; don't present me with this pedantic vision of noble sacrifice.

Why Lebron James

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This summer I had to wake up every morning at 6:30 a.m. As a result, I was tired at nights and didn't get to stay out as much as I would have liked. That put a real damper on my summer. There was a point one early morning in which I laid in bed and thought to myself, “Is there anyone having a worse summer than me?”

Yes. Lebron James.

As recently as a season ago, Lebron James was the NBA's darling. He was the unselfish superstar to Kobe Bryant's ball-hogging persona. Then, as most people on the planet know, James' fortunes changed quickly and dramatically. Lebron James' bizarre preening during free agency turned him into one of the most hated celebrities in the country.

Jesse Jackson and Lebron James agreed that race was an issue in the public out-lash against James. I suppose this is true. Are there some people who hate James because of his skin color? Probably. Is that the reason James' Q score (a rating index which measures celebrities favorability amongst the American populace) showed a 77% increase of people who viewed him in a “negative light?” Absolutely not.

Of course, this all happened over the summer, so why is Lebron James once again newsworthy? Two reasons: First, the NBA opens this

week with James' Heat playing the Boston Celtics. Secondly, and perhaps most importantly, James' began his public relations reclamation campaign this week with the debut of his new Nike commercial. The commercial features James asking the audience a variety of questions, all essentially asking the same thing. “What do you want from me?” The commercial is mostly funny and very well done.

However, the tone of the commercial is all over the place. There are moments of brevity in which we see the Lebron James who hosted Saturday Night Live and made America fall in love with him. But there are also moments in which James seems to directly respond to critics. He mocks a famous Charles Barkley commercial, questions those who chided him for tarnishing his legacy, and responds to those who criticized him for surrounding himself with friends from high school.

The commercial will undoubtedly be huge. By the time you read this, it will likely have over a million hits on YouTube. It will be a trending topic on Twitter and there will be hundreds of blog posts covering the topic. Despite that, I believe it will not bring James any closer to reclaiming his spot as America's most beloved. The commercial shows he still doesn't get it.

At one point James asks the camera, “Should I be who you want me to be?” The ad implies that

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had a lousy summer

of course James should not be who we want him to be; he should be himself. But that's not how this sports thing works. We don't owe LeBron James a thing.

I indirectly help pay James' salary. I watch NBA games on television. This increases the ratings for NBA games. That allows the league to sign a more lucrative deal with the major networks. That deal allows owners to pay players.

Think of it this way, supporting the NBA makes me like a shareholder for a large corporation. James' position as one of the league's elite stars would make him like a vice-president. (Although he would certainly be one of the higher ranked vice-presidents. Maybe an executive vice-president.) Wouldn't that vice-president owe *something* to his shareholders? Would a vice-president really be shocked that his decision to leave one company for a rival one would stir up some negative emotions?

To extend the analogy further, after the collapse of the banking industry and the subsequent tax payer funded bailout, there was a huge uproar after certain banks gave employees massive bonuses. The American public was justifiably angry that their money was going towards million dollar bonuses for people who had just royally screwed up. In short, the American public was angry that people to whom they lent money weren't acting in a way the pub-

lic deemed appropriate. They weren't who we wanted them to be. The banks were within their legal means to give their employee bonuses, but they could not expect the public to take the news well.

My argument does not mean to say that LeBron James should not have signed with the Miami Heat. Personally, I don't have a problem with James' decision. Choosing to live and play basketball in Miami is an easily defended position.

However, James' smug, condescending questioning of the American public is indefensible. He certainly is free to make decisions as to where he wishes to play. But so too is the American public free to make him public enemy number one.

There is a level of irony to this situation. A millionaire basketball player is appearing on the internet deriding the American public for not loving him enough. We already give you millions of dollars... isn't that enough? What more do you want from us?

"Should I be who you want me to be?"

No, LeBron, you don't *have* to be who the American public wants you to be. You are not obligated to us. However, remember that neither are we obligated to you. You likely won't win over our hearts, but you're still more than welcome to our wallets. Isn't that good enough? Should we be who you want us to be?

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I couldn't get to sleep this last Saturday. And this time it wasn't because I was out too late or I was sick. I couldn't sleep because I was scared. In particular, I was illogically scared that there was going to be some kind of spirit or ghost that would decide to grace my dorm with its presence. It reminded me of my childhood days when I would lie in my bed, eyes wide-open, facing the door I had purposely left open, convinced there was a monster or thief climbing the steps to my upstairs hallway. My fear Saturday was just as childish, even though I was in my college dorm room as a supposed adult. I chastised myself for the overproduction of my imagination. "Why did I decide to watch *The Haunting in Connecticut* again?" I didn't have an answer at the moment, but I think I do now.

An overtly obvious answer would be that I wanted to watch a horror movie because it was almost Halloween. But after spending a night sleepless, this answer just isn't good enough. After all, Halloween involves dressing up and lots of candy too. If I really didn't want to be scared, my Halloween celebration didn't have to include horror flicks. I could enjoy Halloween without scaring the s**t out of myself. But Halloween just wouldn't be the same without getting nervous. In fact, I, like many of my friends, want

to get scared.

I like sleep. Yet, I lose sleep from the movies I watch and the haunted attractions I go to every October. Even more, I pay money for these movies and haunted houses I attend. It was eleven dollars to go through a haunted corn field. And the haunted field trip probably took my friend and I twenty minutes to walk through at the max. But every year I spend money to see a man with a chainsaw running toward me... I willingly pay these people for twenty minutes of terror. Why?

Maybe it's because I have to admit that Halloween just wouldn't be the same without getting scared. Trick-or-treating and eating junk food is all great. But October is the one month to indulge in paying for the adrenaline rush. Let's be honest, there is no other month in the year when a sane person would spend 30 dollars to walk through a decrepit asylum in the dark where "such and such famous ax-murderer" was supposed to have passed his last living days. Imagine someone telling you that in the middle of February. "Yeah, instead of celebrating Valentine's Day, some buddies and I are gonna' take a trip through that factory where Butch the Clever cut down five people." It wouldn't make much sense. I would probably assume that the reason they were alone and didn't want to celebrate Valentine's Day was obvious: They needed some serious psychological help.

But that's not the case during October. I can guiltlessly give up my hard-earned cash and sleep for the thrill of listening, watching, and experiencing horror stories. And why? Because it's the month of Halloween. And Halloween means you get to enjoy being scared. But this brings me back to my main question... why do I and others celebrate a holiday about being frightened? Why do we want to?

And I think the real answer (or my answer) to this question is based on my story of lying awake as a child, scared of the creaking stairs. When I was little, it was expected that I would be frightened. My imagination was supposed to run loose with what might come out of the closet or what could live underneath my bed. I had a mind relentlessly spinning over the stories I heard and movies I watched. But when I became scared at night, it was okay because I was just using the imagination out of which I would inevitably someday grow. Therefore, it was expected and acceptable. My parents always commented that my imagination was huge. But they knew, just like everyone else, that once I got older all those monsters, thieves, and screeches created by my imagination would disappear. Someday, I would have too much common sense to believe in things like the boogiemani I checked for every night. My imagination would fade as my knowledge of the world around

me increased.

Perhaps, this is why I and others take the month of October to wholeheartedly scare ourselves. It's the one chance we get all year to let our imaginations run loose and believe in monsters and goblins for thirty-one days. Instead of thinking about the exam coming up, the latest failed relationship, the passing of another loved one, or the continued job search with bills to pay, we get to focus on the face-painted clown with sick laughter. As we walk through haunted houses, we get to put ourselves back in our eyes as kids, when our own house could be just as scary as the one with a fog-machine and paid performers. It's the time of the year when we get to unashamedly be scared because we're letting our imaginations fool us, just as we did when we were little. At least, that's what I think Halloween really is to me.

A thief obviously never appeared at the top of my stairs when I was a child. And last night no ghost entered my dorm. But that doesn't mean they didn't exist in my own crazy imagination for a short time. Halloween isn't just for kids anymore than Christmas or Easter is. But I, instead, think Halloween is about giving us all the chance to let the imaginations we're taught to repress and replace with logic loose for just one month of the year -- and to get a thrill while doing it.

Sports

"Love the Journey"



Above: Deepika Ramachandran launches a volley.
Left: Aimee Fadden anticipates the serve.

Photos Courtesy of Scott Sanford

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When all was said and done, the 2010 Women's Tennis team stood proudly as finalists at the Midwest Conference Championship in Madison, Wisconsin.

Under the guidance of first year head coach Jason Box, who had his players wear bracelets with the phrase "Love the Journey" engraved in them, the team ended the season with an impressive 12-4-1 record, and finished just one win shy of their goal, set at the beginning of the year, of winning the Midwest Conference.

Box expressed his pleasure with the overall

season as well as the effort the team put in during the tournament given the number of matches they had to play in just three days:

"I was extremely impressed with the determination each individual played with and could not be more proud of the effort they put in," he said. "I want to thank the seniors for their leadership, and I know the returning players are going to use this result to push themselves even harder in the offseason to get ready for next fall."

Despite a 5-2 defeat at the hands of conference rival Grinnell College in the finals, the team has much to be proud of, including potential strength in the future.

With three of the team's ten players graduating by

year's end, the women's tennis program will begin to rely on the talents of its underclassmen. Freshman Aimee Fadden, who had a successful season at Third Singles and Second Doubles with Senior Deepika Ramachandran, is confident about the upcoming season: "We're losing much of our team as seniors," she said, adding "I really think that the rest of us have now seen the potential that this team has and we are already getting ready for next year."

In addition, First Singles player Melika Celebic, who won her second consecutive title in the individual tournament, has two years left with the team. "I think this team can achieve even better results next year with the help of Coach

Box who led us through this season," Celebic said.

Lauren Stroner, Co-Captain and one of the three seniors on the team was proud to be part of a team that began a run of great success. For her, it was the supportive nature of her teammates that gave her the confidence any tennis player needs while out on the court playing a match on their own: "Even though I was on the court alone, I felt as if each member of the team was there playing with me," she said, adding that the team's cheering and support of one another during matches was "great, and really emulated Coach Box's philosophy of 'Love the Journey'".

The black and red bracelets, with the phrase "Love the Journey," were

worn by each member of the team, including Coach Box from the beginning of the season to the end. The phrase "Love the Journey" comes from Box's belief that part of success stems from enjoying the everyday struggle that takes place on the court as well as in life in order for success to be reached.

One has to love and embrace the harsh, difficult moments that so many others dread, because in the end it will all be worth it. Practices are demanding under the leadership of Coach Box. Only the toughest and most willing make it through the exhaustive drills and exercises he puts his team through, yet by season's end everyone on the team was glad to be a part of it, seeing where it led them to.

"I couldn't be prouder of our girls or our choice of a new coach," junior Nonie Carson commented. "I was pleased to see all of our work paid off at the end of the season, and was nothing short of inspired by the incredible work ethic all of my teammates displayed."

While the teams will change over the course of time, with different players coming and going, the newly instilled work ethic Coach Jason Box has permanently placed in each one of his players and the expectations returning players will have of incoming ones, will undoubtedly one day result in a Conference Title and a trip to the NCAA Division III Tournament.